



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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December 2005

## SUNDAY DECEMBER 11TH IS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY OR, NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION 2006: MAKE A DIFFERENCE

How many of us start out the year by making some sort of resolution to either eat healthier meals or spend more quality time with our families? It seems we mean well but many times quickly forget our intentions and fall back into the same routines. Of course it is easy to do so, yet by the same token, if we took the time to reflect on our intentions and make a concerted effort to embrace them, imagine how much better we would likely feel.

The same applies to our Cathedral Stewardship. If we truly plan to make a difference, imagine how much we would be able to achieve. Stewardship, as I see it, takes more than a simple token contribution, regardless of the pledge amount. It takes an open heart and a sincere commitment. It is intended to be a powerful resolution which reflects new ideals that should be embraced. Stewardship combines financial support, volunteer efforts, sharing of oneself, and community and faith building. It is the foundation that grows through our beliefs and shared visions.

As we embark on a new and exciting time, a time to rethink all things ranging from our building hopes to our programs, it is indeed paramount to think about how we can work together through our shared commitments to not only build on our hopes, but to reach and exceed our dreams.

You will soon be receiving a commitment statement for your 2006 Stewardship. Along these lines, I ask you to consider your expectations from the Cathedral and what they mean to you. We all seek and need the Cathedral, its offerings, its programs, and its people. With that said, the Cathedral needs YOU. Without you, there would be no Cathedral. It is your energy, faith, love, and devotion which fuel the essence of our community.

Please consider more than a simple pledge for 2006. Consider a resolution that is not set aside, but one which you are committed to. A resolution worthy of strong consideration and introspection. A resolution which propels you into greater faith.

**Sunday, December the 11th is Stewardship Sunday at the Annunciation.** It will serve as a day to reflect and be thankful for all of our past successes. It will also be a day to consider breaking away the boundaries that form as a result of forgetting our resolutions. I hope that I see you on Stewardship Sunday and that you will consider making a resolution which embraces the very foundation of our faith and which serves to provide you with strength to accept the new challenges ahead. *Please, make a difference!*

### AN INTERESTING NOTE IN THE CATHEDRAL'S HISTORY

The photograph below is historically significant to the St. Sophia/Annunciation community. (Our community was founded in 1921 as St. Sophia and was located at Hayes and Pierce Streets, San Francisco. It was named St. Sophia Cathedral by **Archbishop Meletios Metaxakis**, who later became Ecumenical Patriarch. As such, it served as the headquarters for the newly established Diocese of San Francisco, one of four Dioceses which, beginning in 1922, comprised the Archdiocese. In 1928, it relocated to its present site at 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco. In 1936 it was incorporated as United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation.)

Standing to the left is the **Reverend Filaretos Ioannidis**. He was our first priest. Standing to the right is the **Reverend Pythagoras Caravellas** (before he started wearing a goatee). He was engaged as the assistant priest on August 19, 1921, and became St. Sophia's full time priest after June 1, 1923. The gentleman seated is **Metropolitan Alexandros**. At the time, he was the Metropolitan of Kerkyra (Corfu). In 1922, he became the first Archbishop of America.

Father Filaretos served as a priest at the Holy Trinity Church in the 1910s. When our community was formed, he became its priest, and served from 1921 to 1923. On June 1, 1923, he was elevated to bishop and became the first bishop of the Chicago Diocese. He later went on to serve as the Metropolitan of Syros.

The photo was dated between 1921 and 1923, based on historical facts. If it was taken prior to 1922, **Archbishop Alexandros** would have still been Metropolitan of Kerkyra. It is one of only two known photos of Father Filaretos.

(Note: The historical information is being provided by **Jim Lucas**, Annunciation Cathedral's web master and chairman of its historical committee.)





## MORE ON OUR BIG ANNIVERSARY

In our November Herald, we reported that three major events will take place as we celebrate another major anniversary in the life of our parish:

1) The first is the publication of a Commemorative Book. This book will contain a history of the community, complete with photographs, congratulatory letters, and your greetings and felicitations. It will be along the lines of our Festival Souvenir Program Book, only bigger, and certainly a keepsake. We invite not only parishioners of the Cathedral, but friends of the Cathedral, as well, (i.e. those who are part of other communities now, but who have roots at the Annunciation) to be included. **Angie Leventis** is chair of the Commemorative Book Committee. While the committee has begun meeting and planning the book, they welcome your ideas and input. Please call Angie to indicate your willingness to participate.

2) The second is a banquet, to be held in a hotel, Saturday, November 11, 2006. (As of this writing, we are negotiating with the Westin St. Francis, and will announce the venue just as soon as our plans are finalized.) The Banquet Committee is charged with a number of tasks including: reception, venue, dinner, invitations, decorations, program (consisting of an audio-visual presentation, guest performance(s), speaking program, music, dancing, and entertainment), and commemorative gifts and favors. **Patricia Aleck** is chair of our Banquet Committee. **Archbishop Demetrios** of America, who will be in the Bay Area the weekend of our banquet, to deliver lectures at the PAOI, is being invited to be our guest of honor at our anniversary banquet. Again, while the committee has begun meeting and planning the banquet, they welcome your ideas and input. Please call Pat to indicate your willingness to participate. It's an exciting undertaking.

3) The third component is the accommodation of more on-site parking and building our church. As reported at the November 20 Parish Assembly, the parish leadership is exploring a number of options with a view to developing a Phase II plan for adoption by the community. It has been our hope to be able to develop this plan and formally unveil it at the November 11 banquet. As one can imagine, there are many aspects which must be considered in order to formulate a viable plan, including site, scope, and financing. As these are studied and resolved, the immediate community (i.e. Annunciation's stewards) and the entire Metropolis (since we are the Cathedral church for the Metropolis) will benefit. In any case, the history of our Cathedral, beginning in 1921, has been one of growth, progress, and diversity. All these years we have been an inner-city parish, located in the heart of San Francisco. As such, we have been subject to both the opportunities and challenges of inner city life. As our community continues to evolve, we look forward to the challenges, which lie ahead. Heading this effort is **Tom Nuris**, President of our Parish Council. Once again, your ideas and input are welcome, as we endeavor to address the issues of building and the future of our community.

Then, there are a number of other events, which will take place during the course of our anniversary year. For example, the Cathedral will host the **2006 Archdiocese National Oratorical Festival**, June 2-4, with **Archbishop Demetrios** and other hierarchs in attendance, and a number of finalists from throughout the country participating. On March 21, 2006, the Cathedral will host the **Women's Board of the Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute (PAOI)**, part of the Graduate Theological Union at Berkeley, for an all-day meeting. On Saturday, March 4, the Cathedral will present **Dr. Anton Vrame** for an all-day spiritual renewal workshop/conference, open to the entire Bay Area. **Dr.**

**Vrame**, Director of the PAOI, will address the topic: *What makes us Orthodox*. The day will begin with Divine Liturgy at 10 and will continue with the workshop/conference and lunch, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. We are also planning to bring two other prominent theologians for our Lenten Series Talks, in March and in April. These are only some of the events which will take place at the Cathedral in the forthcoming year. These, and others, highlight the Cathedral as both a parish and a center of ecclesiastical life for the Bay Area and for the entire Metropolis.

## EIGHT RUN FOR PARISH COUNCIL: ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE DECEMBER 11

The Nominating Committee, at the Parish Assembly held Sunday, November 20, placed in nomination the names of the following eight individuals to serve the Parish Council for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2006: **Michael Bagatelos, John Coundouris, Thomas A. Nuris, Nikolas Stathopoulos, Nicholas Svetcoff, George Vlahos, James D. Vorrises, and Gus Vouchilas**. If no one else declares candidacy, then these eight will be elected on Sunday, December 11, when Parish Council elections take place following the Divine Liturgy. While six of the eight currently serve on the Parish Council, **Nicholas Svetcoff** has in the past served on the Parish Council. **John Coundouris**, a member of the parish for over three years, will be a new member of the Parish Council. The new Parish Council will receive its oath of office on Sunday, January 8, 2006, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy.

## BOARD OF AUDITORS ELECTED

The Parish Assembly held Sunday, November 20 also elected a new Board of Auditors. The new Board consists of **Angie Leventis, Loula Ossipoff, and Yota Gofas**. The Board of Auditors will audit the 2005 financial records. In addition, it conducts regular auditing of the books.

## DELEGATES ELECTED TO METROPOLIS CLERGY-LAITY

Finally, in accordance with the new Regulations of the Archdiocese, the Parish Assembly elected two individuals who, in addition to **Father Stephen Kyriacou** and **Thomas A. Nuris**, will represent the Cathedral at the Metropolis Clergy Laity Assembly, to be held at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center February 27-28, 2006. The additional delegates are: **Patricia Aleck** and **James D. Vorrises**. They will report to our parishioners at the spring Parish Assembly.

## FATHER JAMES RETELAS TO LEAD WORKSHOP AT ANNUNCIATION DECEMBER 10TH

**Father Jim Retelas**, Annunciation Cathedral's second priest from 1987-1992, now Pastor of Annunciation Church, Sacramento, will conduct a Stewardship/Fund Raising Seminar for the Parish Council and the Parish Leadership on Saturday, Dec. 10th from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

While he served as Pastor of the Holy Trinity parish in Portland, Oregon, Father Jim took a six-month sabbatical and took intensive courses in fund raising strategies. On December 10, Father Jim will share some of his insights with his former parishioners. At some future date, we would like to bring Father Jim to celebrate the Divine Liturgy for us on a Sunday morning and preach to our congregation.

Father Jim also serves as Stewardship Chairman for our Metropolis, having been appointed to this position by the late **Metropolitan Anthony** and re-appointed by **Metropolitan Gerasimos**.



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

### VASILOPITA JANUARY 8

As we do every year, so also on Sunday, January 8th, Philoptochos is sponsoring the annual Vasilopita, or "St. Basil's bread." Named so after St. Basil the Great, one of the "three hierarchs," who lived in the 4th century, and whose Divine Liturgy we celebrate on his feast day, January the first and on other solemn days during the year.

Vasilopita contains a coin. Whoever finds the coin is said to be especially blessed during the New Year. The origin of inserting a coin into the bread goes back to St. Basil himself, who hid gold coins in bread and distributed the bread anonymously among the poor people in his Diocese in Cappadocia (the middle part of modern day Turkey). This enabled the poor girls in the Diocese to be married, since the gold coins provided the dowry, which a young girl was required to have, at that time, in order for her to be married.

The proceeds of our Vasilopita go to support the students at St. Basil's Academy, which is located in Garrison, New York. Originally an orphanage, the institution, which is administered by our Archdiocese, is the property of the Philoptochos.

### CRAB FEED - JANUARY 20

Recently, letters and flyers were mailed to all parishioners announcing the Crab Feed, which will take place Friday, January 20th, and inviting your participation. This is our 24th Annual Crab Feed, and a major fund raiser for the Philoptochos, which gives out over \$25,000 a year in support of various charities and needy individuals. The donation is \$40 a person. Your reservation is secured upon receipt of your payment. This makes it easier from a book-keeping point of view, and eliminates the need for payment the night of the event.

Please make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos and return them, together with your reservation, to the:

Philoptochos office, Attn: Crab Feed,  
245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

The cocktail reception will begin at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. Attended parking will be available. For reservations, please call Pat Destein, at 415 883-7477 or Ackie Argyres, at 415 751-2180.

### ONE YEAR MEMORIAL FOR METROPOLITAN ANTHONY

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos has announced that a special one-year memorial service for the repose of the soul of the late Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco, who fell asleep in the Lord Christmas Day last year, will take place at the Monastery of the Theotokos the Living Spring at the St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center Saturday, December 17. The Divine Liturgy will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the memorial service. Those wishing to arrange for overnight accommodations should call the Ranch and make reservations. The telephone number is 559/338-2103.

On Sunday, December 18, memorial services for our late Metropolitan will take place at the Cathedral, following the Divine Liturgy. The 18th is the day of our Sunday School Christmas program and luncheon. It is a most appropriate day to honor the memory of Metropolitan Anthony, who so loved children and, in turn, was loved by them.

### DIRECTORY

We thank you, our Cathedral parishioners, supporting businesses, and friends, for updating the informa-

tion which will be included in our 2006 directory. The information has been forwarded to our **Productive Printing** for processing and printing. The 2006 directory, which will include your names, addresses, work/home phone numbers (no cell numbers), and E-mail addresses, will be forwarded to you in time for the new year.

### CHRISTMAS MAILING

Soon, parishioners will be receiving their Christmas mailing. This mailing will consist of the 2006 Church calendar, a schedule of services for Christmas and the New Year, a letter of Christmas greetings from **Father Stephen**, and an envelope for your Christmas contribution to the Cathedral. Please let us know if you do not receive your Christmas mailing; we will be happy to put another copy in the mail to you.

### 2006 CALENDARS

Soon, you will be receiving your 2006 Calendars, a gift from the **Duggan Welch** family. The calendars are a valuable resource in every Orthodox Christian home. In addition to a listing of the various saints days, they specify the fasting periods for the year, note the various feast days, and provide us with the scriptural readings for each day of the year.

### AN HISTORIC FIRST: ST. NICHOLAS DIVINE LITURGY TO TAKE PLACE AT ST. NICHOLAS ANTIOCHIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

For the first time, the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the Feast of St. Nicholas, Tuesday, December 6, will take place at the St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, located at 5200 Diamond Heights Boulevard, San Francisco, beginning at 10 a.m. There will be no Liturgy at the Cathedral that day. Instead, we will have the opportunity of celebrating with our Antiochian Orthodox brothers and sisters on the feast day of their parish and wish many years to their pastor, **Father Nicholas Borzghol**, who will be celebrating that day. **Father Stephen** will participate in the Liturgy as will **Nicholas Tzafopoulos**, the Cathedral's chanter (who will also be celebrating his name day). Brunch will follow the Liturgy.

The idea for a common celebration came while **Father Stephen** and **Father Nicholas** were celebrating the Liturgy with **Father Michael** at Holy Trinity on the Feast of the Birth of the Theotokos, September 8th. It is good when fellow clergy can participate in these festal liturgies, especially when our parishes are celebrating their respective feasts. **Father Nicholas**, for example, has participated at Annunciation Vespers as well as at the Annunciation Divine Liturgy on March 25th on several occasions. Not only does it give witness to our Orthodox Faith, it helps foster further unity among us.

### CANNED FOOD DRIVE

In keeping with the special joys of the holiday season, we have a wonderful opportunity to experience the special feeling of giving to others. Please bring a canned item to church, weekdays or Sundays, through Sunday, December 11, and deposit it in the special receptacles provided. Non-perishable foods most needed are: canned tuna and chicken, beans, rice, pasta, canned soups and stews, peanut butter, raisins, cereals.

Let us teach the joy of giving, as we give thanks for all we have. This project is sponsored by our Sunday School.



## HELLO, MY NAME IS PETE SOTIRAS

And I was recently appointed by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to be the Youth and Family Ministries Director for our Metropolis. Being appointed to this position is truly an honor. It is a tremendous blessing for me to have the opportunity to serve our young people.

Working with the youth and young adults of our Metropolis is not a new endeavor for me. For the last five years, I was either a counselor or a co-director at St. Nicholas Ranch Summer Camp. I probably already know many of the Cathedral's young people through this program. Along with my experience at camp, I was also a high school Sunday School teacher and a discussion leader at the Boston College OCF (Orthodox Christian Fellowship).

I grew up in Novato and attended the Nativity of Christ parish in Ignacio. In 2001, I graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in History from UC Berkeley (go Bears!). From Cal I went to Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA and in May, I graduated with an M.Div. degree.

After another fun and successful camp at St. Nicholas this past summer, I was appointed to be the Youth and Family Ministries Director. Along with introducing myself, I also want to introduce the new Youth Web page for our Metropolis. This Web page is designed for our teenagers, GOYAns and youth workers. It is imperative that the Church provide a "place" online where our young people can go to and create new friendships, deepen their existing ones, and cultivate their relationship with God and God's Church. This is what this Web site is all about. It will also serve as the hub for all the Metropolis Youth news. If you want to find out when the next retreat, camp, athletic event, lock-in, or social service project is, this site will have it - with your help, of course. Please send me any information of youth events that your parish may be doing so I can post it on the Web page. If you have pictures of events that have occurred, please send those to me as well. The Web page will also become an important hub for resources and important dates that are coming up for youth workers.

The Web address for the site is:

<http://www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org>

If you would like to send comments or pictures, please E-mail me at: [sfyouth@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:sfyouth@sanfran.goarch.org)

My ministry also includes our young adults. There are already a couple of events planned over the next few months. There will be a Christmas Celebration at the Metropolis on December 17th and a Ski Retreat at Lake Tahoe, January 13-16 (see separate article on Youth Page). You can get more information of these events at the Young Adult homepage, which can be accessed at: <http://www.youngadult.sanfran.goarch.org>

I am looking forward to a fruitful year of Youth and Young Adult Ministry. Already, it's been fruitful. In September, we held the first annual San Jose Volleyball Tournament (with Annunciation a major winner) and the Fall Family Camp at the Ranch, both of which were very successful. In November, Oakland hosted a regional Altar Boy Retreat.

A Lock-In will be held by Elk Grove for the parishes of the region, December 9th and 10th. These are just a few of the happenings in the Metropolis. Check out the Web page for more information on all these events and others as they come along. The Office of Youth and Family Ministries is here to help the parishes of our Metropolis in our ministry to our young people. If you would like me to come and visit your parish and speak to our young people and/or lead a retreat or workshop, please don't hesitate to contact me. A very special thanks to **Eve Tibbs** (Chair of the

Religious Education Ministry of our Metropolis) for creating the Web pages. This important ministry could not have happened without her.

## CATHEDRAL BEGINS RECEIVING CATERER PROPOSALS

In our November Herald, an article appeared inviting caterers interested in becoming the Cathedral's caterers to forward their proposals to the Cathedral, by December first. The outline of responsibilities, and the requirements, consisted of the following:

- Booking event dates in coordination with the Cathedral
- Meeting with clients
- Discussing menu options, including pricing, décor, and service of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages
- Provide set-up and take-down services, including tables, chairs, linen and china
- Contracting valet/attendant parking services
- Contracting security services
- Providing labor associated with the event including server and kitchen crew staffing, dishwashing, and clean-up
- Minimum two years catering experience
- Liability insurance, minimum \$2 million
- Marketing and promotion of services at the Cathedral
- Monthly financial event reports and settlement with the Cathedral

We asked prospective caterers to include in their proposals:

- Their suggested menus
- Cost range
- References
- Education/experience
- List of purveyors used
- Copies of their standard agreement(s)

Proposals have begun coming in. Once they are evaluated, meetings are held with our Hall Management Committee, and a decision is made: we will inform our parishioners and invite your use of their services.

## SERVICES IN NOVEMBER

### BAPTISMS

**Norman Lee McNight** was baptized on November 9, the Feast Day of Saint Nektarios. His baptismal name is Nektarios. His sponsors are **Eleni Tsagaris** and **Michael Dwyer**.

**Victor Nicolacakis**, son of Dean and Maria Nicolacakis, was baptized on November 26. His sponsors are **Nick** and **Alexia Costouros**.

### MARRIAGES

The marriages of **Eleni Tsifourdaris** to **Tom Taptelis** and **Katerina Tsifourdaris** to **Mike Sarikakis** took place November 5. Father Stephen participated in the Sacrament, which took place at Holy Trinity Church.

*Na Mas Zisoun! (Long Life!)*

### FUNERAL

**Emmanuel Stratakis**, who fell asleep in the Lord November 1, was buried November 7. He is survived by his wife, **Anna**, and by his children **Soula Mithos** and **Ari Stratakis**, and their children.

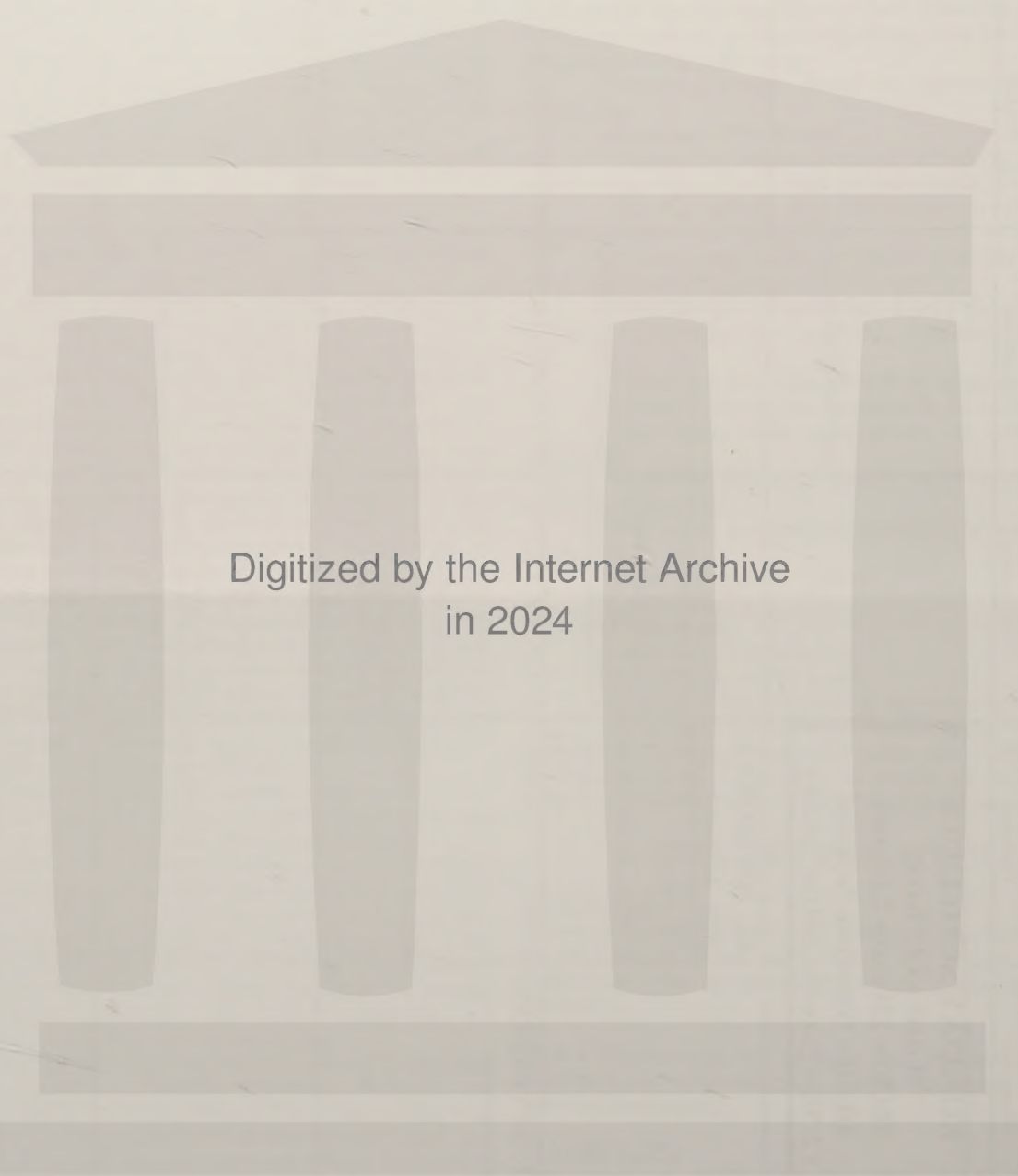
*Aionia aftou I mnimi (May his memory be eternal)!*



# Annunciation Cathedral Calendar of Events

# December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>SUNDAY SCHEDULE</b> 9 am - Orthros 10:30 - Divine Liturgy 10:30 - Sunday School 12:30 - Greek Bible Study			6:30-Basketball Practice 1		Holiday Brunch - Novato 3
12:30 GOYA Meeting 1-3 Dance Practice 4		<b>ST. NICHOLAS</b> 10am - Liturgy at St. Nicholas Antiochian Church 6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice + 6 5	4-6 Greek School 7 -Talks With Father 6:30 - Open Gym 7:30-Basketball Practice 7 6	6:30-Basketball Practice 8	9	9 - 1 - Stewardship / Fund Raising Seminar 10
Stewardship Sunday Parish Council Elections ; 1-3 Dance Practice 11	<b>ST. SPYRIDON</b> 10am - Liturgy 12 13	6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice 13	4-6 Greek School 6:30 - Open Gym 7:30-Basketball Practice 14 15		16	17
Sunday School Program & Luncheon 1-3 Dance Practice 18	19	6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice 20	4-6 Greek School 6:30 - Open Gym 7:30-Basketball Practice 7:30 - Dance Practice 21 22	6:30-Basketball Practice 22	23	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE</b> 9am - Orthros 10 am - Liturgy 24
<b>CHRISTMAS</b> 25	26	6:30 - 9 - Dance Practice 27	7:30 - Dance Practice 28	6:30-Basketball Practice 29	30	31



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## REACTION TO DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE PATRIARCHATE

Archbishop Demetrios of America has expressed his deepest sorrow and his strong and unequivocal condemnation for the most recent hostile demonstrations and threats against the holy center of world Orthodoxy, the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, in Istanbul, Turkey.

This latest assault took place Thursday, October 28, when groups of Turkish nationalists and other extreme elements demonstrated in Phanar against the Ecumenical Patriarchate chanting slogans such as "one night we'll come to the Phanar," "go away Patriarch," "Patriarch don't test our patience," "take the Patriarchate and go to Greece," and the like. Before police intervened, the angry demonstrators reached the entrance to the Patriarchal compound, and placed a black wreath in front of the gate.

Archbishop Demetrios in his statement of condemnation said, "I express my deepest sorrow for the events that transpired outside of our Ecumenical Patriarchate last Thursday. The actions of these Turkish extremists-nationalists are appalling and condemnable in and by any civilized country. These are actions against a holy institution which survived and lives on through the centuries. It's an institution highly respected by the entire civilized world. These demonstrators are short changing themselves and Turkey, as they paint a picture of uncivilized, petty, narrow-minded people."

"As a Church and as Orthodox in America, we are in spirit and in prayer by the side of our Ecumenical Patriarchate, and we stand in full support with love and care towards our Mother Church as we are reassured that He Who has many times saved this Patriarchate and has protected it in difficult times will once again be next to our Ecumenical Patriarch and the Fathers of the Great Church of Christ and He will lead this crisis to a favorable result according to the teachings of our Lord, that God, 'will not break a bruised reed, and smoking flax He will not quench, till He sends forth justice to victory' (Matt. 12:20)."

## PLANS UNDERWAY TO HOST ARCHDIOCESE ORATORICAL FESTIVAL JUNE 2-4, 2006

On Thursday, November 17, Presvytera Margaret Orfanakos, one of the founders of the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival, and its co-chair, came from New York to meet with our host committee. As announced previously, our Metropolis, and specifically, our Annunciation Cathedral, will host the 2006 Festival, which will take place beginning Friday, June 2, with the arrival of finalists from throughout the country and their families, and ending Sunday, June 4, with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy, a luncheon, and departure.

Plans are underway to house the finalists and their families at the Sheraton at Fisherman's Wharf and, following the Festival itself, which will take place at the Cathedral on Saturday, June 3, and a celebratory luncheon afterwards (both events open to the community), to take our guests on a tour of San Francisco and perhaps a boat cruise in the evening. On Friday, June 2, following their arrival, we are planning to hold Vespers at Holy Trinity Church, San Francisco, followed by a meal and a social. On Sunday, June 4, the Divine Liturgy will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont, followed by a luncheon and departure.

The initial committee consists of the following:  
Publicity: Father Michael Tervo and Frosene Phillips  
Transportation/Housing: Paul Sogotis and Presvytera Alexandra Pappas  
Judges: Dr. Anton Vrame and Patricia Aleck  
Finances: Nick Tarlson, Father Constantine Efstathiou, Michael Misthos, and Father John Roll  
Reunion: Presvytera Matia Prevas  
Logo: Father Peter Salmas  
Photographer/Video: Natalie Schrik (and also minutes)  
Registration/Materials: Presvytera Fotini Roll, Marie Eliades, Fran Corcoran, Bruce Corcoran, Katherine Kaplanis, and Presvytera Kay Efstathiou  
Archdiocese Coordinators: Presvytera Margaret Orfanakos and Father Frank Marangos (Fr. Frank is Director of the Archdiocese Department of Religious Education)  
Host Committee Co-chairs: Father Stephen Kyriacou, Denise Yeilding and Peter Sotiras

The next meeting of the committee will take place in the Cathedral's second floor conference room Thursday, January 19. If you wish to assist in the planning of this St. John Chrysostom Archdiocese Oratorical Festival, being held during our anniversary year, please speak with Father Stephen, following the Sunday Divine Liturgy or by calling him, at 415/864-8000.

## COMMUNITY LINK

Our last Community Link of 2005 will take place on Saturday, December 17, beginning at 10 a.m. We will meet at the Cathedral, and, as we have done for past Community Links, prepare food for distribution. At noon, we will break for prayer and a pot lock meal. Then, we will be divided into groups of two for our visits to homebound and institutionalized parishioners.

If you know of someone who would like to be visited, or if you have any questions about the program, please call **Caroline Pappajohn**, at 415 699-5633.

## GREEK SCHOOL RESUMES (EFHARISTO)

As noted in the November Herald, we are pleased that our Greek School, under the direction of **Demetra Armenakis**, has resumed. Classes for children, grades two and up, are being held in the second floor conference room Wednesdays, 4 to 6 p.m. We are back up to eight students. We are endeavoring to grow the program by proceeding not only with the teaching of the Greek language, but an appreciation for Greek history and culture as well. Won't you consider sending your children to Greek School?

## LEARNING COMMUNITY

Our Thursday evening study, begun by **Father Paul Schroeder**, is being continued by **Father Stephen**. Our theme for this semester's study has been "Building the New City."

We have been focusing on the Ten Commandments ("You shall have no other gods before me..." Exodus 20:1-12) and the Beatitudes ("Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 5:1-12), reflecting on how these important texts from the Old and New Testaments might help us to envision and create a new world, a "new heaven and a new earth, where justice abides" (II Peter 3:13).

We have also been reading a book together: The Ladder of the Beatitudes by **Jim Forest**.



# FOCUS ON YOUTH

## TALKS WITH FATHER WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7

A monthly gathering of our teenagers began this year, on Wednesday, September 7. Entitled "Talks with Father," this 7:00-8:30 p.m. gathering centers around issues of special concern to teens and how answers to these concerns can be found in the Bible and in the Life of the Church (for example, in the Church Fathers).

Some 25 of our teenagers gathered for the first, second and third sessions, and have enthusiastically said they will come to the fourth session, to be held on Wednesday, December 7th. We will meet promptly at 7 p.m. and continue our discussion. In preparation, our teens are asked to explore the Archdiocese Web Site, goarch.org. and print out one article, short or long, which they have read and which they find interesting enough to share with the group. During December, we also plan to view a movie together and go to Father Gregory's home for food and a swim (he has an indoor pool).

## HIGH SCHOOL MAKING/ DISTRIBUTING KITS TO THE HOMELESS

This project, meant to supplement the canned food drive, is meant to sensitize our high school students to the needs of the less fortunate. On Sunday, December 11 our students will prepare kits for distribution. Therefore, we invite the entire community to donate items, such as the following, which are vital to people who typically have no home and who often end up in shelters or on the streets: socks, toiletries, blankets, and umbrellas. You may bring these items to church with you on Sunday, December 4 and give them to **Caroline Pappajohn**. For questions about the program, please call 415 699-5633.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL: A WONDERFUL LEARNING COMMUNITY

As we indicated in our November Herald, Sunday School is in the forefront of our religious educational endeavors. Thanks go to the parents, who encourage their children's participation (we have about 150 enrolled in the program), and to our dedicated team of teachers, who volunteer their time to teach and share our Orthodox Christian Faith. Please note: our faculty for 2005-2006 are as follows:

Pre-Kindergarten  
**Sophie Makras and Erika Panagiotopoulos**  
Kindergarten  
**Elizabeth Yisak and Zaid Tewelde**  
First Grade  
**Effie Vellis and Paula Kitses**  
Second Grade  
**Elaine Makras**  
Third/Fourth Grades

**Mary Tonas and Annette Chiappari**  
Fifth/Sixth Grades  
**Maria Allen and Tina Kontonis**  
Seventh/Eighth  
**Gus Vouchilas and Eleni Kalligeros**  
High School  
**Caroline Pappajohn and**  
**Fathers Paul and Gregory**  
**Denise Yeilding** is our Principal.

The program operates under the supervision of our **Dean, Father Stephen**, and our religious education committee. Together with classroom instruction, "teaching" Liturgies, projects and programs, as the St. John Oratorical Festival and the Christmas Pageant, our school is a wonderful learning community, where learning, caring and sharing converge, inspired by our Orthodox Christian Faith. During the course of the year, our young people are given flyers announcing any number of curricular and extra curricular activities.

We invite our parents to review them with your children and assist in any way you can, as we endeavor to help your children and one another grow in knowledge of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ.

## ATTENTION YOUNG ADULTS: SKI RETREAT/ CHRISTMAS GATHERING

A ski trip for young adults if being planned by the Youth Ministry of our Metropolis. It will take place over the Martin Luther King weekend, January 13-16, 2006, and is open to all Orthodox young adults, ages 18-30. The cost is \$250 per person (or \$225 per person for groups of 4 or more) and includes 3 nights lodging at Tallac Center, Zephyr Point (near Heavenly), all meals from Friday night to Monday morning, and a 2-day ski lift at Heavenly. The group will be accompanied by **Dr. John Klentos**, Associate Professor of Orthodox Christian Studies at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. The contact person for the trip is **Pete Sotiras**, Director of Youth and Family Ministries, 559 338-2103 or sfyouth@sanfran.goarch.org.

Meanwhile, there will be a Christmas Gathering of Young Adults at the Metropolis House, 372 Santa Clara Avenue, on Saturday, December 17, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

## INTRODUCING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH

This course, which has resulted in a number of adult baptisms/chrisinations, is being offered Sunday mornings 9-10 a.m. **Father Stephen Kyriacou** and **Father Gregory Ofiesh** teach this course alternately. We invite those who wish to explore, or learn more about the Orthodox Faith to attend these sessions. The sessions are required for those who wish to be received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism or, if already baptized in another church in the Name of the Holy Trinity, through chrismation.



# ΝΕΑ ΤΟΥ ΕΥΑΓΓΕΛΙΣΜΟΥ

## ΦΩΤΟΓΡΑΦΙΑ ΠΡΩΤΟΠΟΡΩΝ

Σε άλλο μέρος του παρόντος δελτίου θα δείτε μια πραγματικά ιστορική φωτογραφία από την Κοινότητάς μας -- της Αγίας Σοφίας και του Ευαγγελισμού της Θεοτόκου. (Όπως είναι γνωστόν, η Κοινότητά μας δημιουργήθηκε το 1921 και ονομάστηκε Αγία Σοφία, από τον τότε Αρχιεπίσκοπο (έπειτα Οικουμενικό Πατριάρχη) **Μελέτιο Μεταξάκη**.) Η Αγία Σοφία ήτο η έδρα της τότε ιδρυθείσας Επισκοπής Αγίου Φραγκίσκου που από το 1922, μαζί με τις Επισκοπές Νέας Υόρκης, Σικάγου και Βοστώνης, αποτέλεσαν την Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής. Το 1928, η Κοινότητα μετέφερε τον Ναό στην παρούσα θέση στην Οδό Βαλέντσια. Το 1936, άλλαξε ονομασία. Από τότε είναι γνωστή ως "Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου", συγκεκριμένα: "Ενωμένη Ελληνική Ορθόδοξος Κοινότητα Αγίου Φραγκίσκου, Ο Ευαγγελισμός της Θεοτόκου."

Στη φωτογραφία, αριστερά, είναι ο **Πατέρας Φιλάρετος Ιωαννίδης**. Ήταν ο πρώτος ιερέας της Κοινοτήτάς μας. Δεξιά είναι ο **Πατέρας Πυθαγόρας Καραβέλλας**. Ήρθε σαν βοηθός ιερέας τον Αύγουστο του 1921, και μετά τον Ιούνιο του 1923, όταν ο Πατέρας Φιλάρετος χειροτονήθηκε Επίσκοπος Σικάγου, ανέλαβε καθήκοντα ιερατικώς προϊσταμένου της. Αυτός που κάθεται είναι ο τότε **Μητροπολίτης Αλέξανδρος της Κέρκυρας**. Το 1922, όταν ιδρύθηκε η Αρχιεπισκοπή Αμερικής, ο Αλέξανδρος εξελέγη ο πρώτος Αρχιεπίσκοπος.

## ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΓΙΑ ΠΑΙΔΙΑ

Ευχαριστούμε τόσο τους γονείς όσο και τους δασκάλους για την επιτυχία μέχρι τώρα του Κατηχητικού μας Σχολείου, σκοπός του οποίου δεν είναι μόνον να μαζεύει τα παιδιά και να τα φροντίζει κατά τη διάρκεια της Θείας Λειτουργίας αλλά, μαζί με τους γονείς, να τα οδηγεί στον δρόμο του Θεού, διδάσκοντας την πατροπαράδοτη και πολύτιμη Ορθόδοξη μας Πίστη.

Επίσης, το Ελληνικό μας Σχολείο λειτουργεί κανονικά, με δασκάλα την **Δήμητρα Αρμενάκη**, κάθε Τετάρτη 4-6 το απόγευμα. Παροτρύνεστε όπως φέρνετε τα παιδιά σας και στο Ελληνικό Σχολείο, όχι μόνον για να μάθουν την γλώσσα, αλλά και κάτι από τον πολυτισμό και την ιστορία της Ελλάδας, που θα τα επηρεάσει θετικά για όλη τους τη ζωή.

Επίσης, πληροφορείστε ότι τα χορευτικά μας συγκροτήματα συνέρχονται κάθε Τρίτη. Το συγκρότημα Κύματα ασκείται 7:30-9 το βράδυ. Τα Αγγελάκια ασκούνται 6:30-7:30 το βράδυ, και στη συνέχεια τα Φιλαδελφάκια ασκούνται 7:30-8:30 το βράδυ. Η Αρετή (που αποτελείται από ενήλικα παιδιά, ως επί το πλείστον του πανεπιστημίου) ασκείται τις Κυριακές, 1:30-3 το απόγευμα. Στο μεταξύ τα πολύ μικρά παιδάκια, του συγκροτήματος "Ο Κύκλος" ασκούνται τις Κυριακές μετά τη Θ. Λειτουργία.

## ΜΑΘΗΜΑΤΑ ΓΙΑ ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟΥΣ

Το μάθημα "Τι Είναι η Ορθόδοξη Πίστη", για προσήλυτους αλλά και για όλους όσοι επιθυμούν να μάθουν περισσότερα για την διδασκαλία της Εκκλησίας μας, διδάσκεται τις Κυριακές, 9-10 το πρωί.

Επίσης, κάθε Κυριακή, αμέσως μετά την Θ.

Λειτουργία, η **Μαρίνα Τέϋλор** συνεχίζει το μάθημα της Βιβλικής μελέτης, με θέμα, εφέτος, η Αποκάλυψη του Ιωάννου. Το μάθημα αυτό γίνεται στην Ελληνική γλώσσα.

Τέλος, κάθε Πέμπτη, 7 με 9 το βράδυ, κάνουμε μάθημα με θέμα "Κτίζοντας την Πόλη." Το μάθημα αυτό, μέχρι το τέλος του Δεκεμβρίου, αναλύει σαν συντελεστικούς παράγοντες τους Μακαρισμούς και τις Δέκα Εντολές.

Καλείσθε όπως παρακολουθήσετε το διαφωτιστικά αυτά μαθήματα που παρέχει η Κοινότητα μας ειδικά για τα ενήλικα μέλη της.

## ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ

Παρακαλείσθε όπως δηλώσετε την επιθυμία σας να περιληφθεί και το δικό σας όνομα στην Κοινοτική Χριστουγεννιάτικη Κάρτα που θα τυπώσει ο Καθεδρικός Ναός με την ευκαιρία των Χριστουγέννων και θα αποστείλει στα μέλη του. Η προσφορά σας εκ. 25 δολλ. θα καλύψει την αγορά της και τα ταχυδρομικά τέλη της κάρτας.

## ΚΑΤΑΛΟΓΟΣ ΜΕΛΩΝ ΚΑΙ ΦΙΛΩΝ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΘΕΔΡΙΚΟΥ ΜΑΣ ΝΑΟΥ

Ευχαριστούμε τα μέλη και τους φίλους του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού για την γρήγορη ανταπόκριση τους στο ερωτηματολόγιο που εστάλη πρόσφατα εν σχέσει με τον κατάλογο του 2006. Έτσι, η τύπωση του καταλόγου προβλέπεται να γίνει μέχρι το τέλος του Δεκεμβρίου, και η διανομή του να γίνει στις αρχές του Ιανουαρίου.

## 8 ΥΠΕΒΑΛΑΝ ΥΠΟ ΥΠΟΨΗΦΙΟΤΗΤΑ ΓΙΑ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟ

Οι οκτώ είναι: ο **Γιώργος Βλάχος**, ο **Δημήτριος Βορρίσης**, ο **Κώστας Βουτσίλας**, ο **Γιάννης Κουντούρης**, ο **Μιχάλης Μπαγατέλος**, ο **Αθανάσιος Νούρης**, ο **Νίκος Σταθόπουλος**, και ο **Νίκος Σβέτκοφ**. Οι κοινοτικές εκλογές θα λάβουν χώραν την Κυριακή 11 Δεκεμβρίου μετά την Θεία Λειτουργία. Η ορκωμοσία των νέων μελών θα λάβει χώραν την Κυριακή 8 Ιανουαρίου στο τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας, και στην συνέχεια θα επακολουθήσει η ετήσια γιορτή της βασιλόπητας.

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Our Sunday Bible Study, taught by **Marina Taylor**, following the Divine Liturgy, is an important ministry for our parishioners, particularly those whose native language is Greek. Since this study is held primarily in Greek, we invite those who wish to learn about our Faith in their native language, to attend this wonderful gathering of our faithful. The topic for this semester is an in-depth look at the Book of Revelation, also known as the Apocalypse. In addition to reading the text, the class explores interpretations of the text by the Church Fathers and how these may be applied to our modern day lives and to our faith. On Sunday, December 4, the group will be visited by **Father Savas**, a monk attached to the St. Anthony Monastery in Florence, Arizona.



DATES  
TO REMEMBER

JANUARY 8, 2006

Parish Council Oath of Office  
Vasilopita

JANUARY 20, 2006

Annual Crab Feed

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2006

Folk Dance Festival - San Diego  
30th Anniversary

JUNE 2-4, 2006

Archdiocese National  
Oratorical Festival

NOVEMBER 11, 2006

Annunciation Cathedral  
70th Anniversary  
Celebration

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MAY  
THE BLESSINGS  
OF  
CHRISTMAS  
TOUCH  
ONE AND ALL!

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320



Orthodox Institute  
2311 Hearst Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94709